

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Sixty-six years ago, Jack Van Der Geest was one of eight known individuals fortunate enough to escape the horrors of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp; and,

Whereas, There are survivors that were liberated at the end of the war, but Jack is the only escapee from Buchenwald still living, and Rapid City, South Dakota, is proud to call him a resident; and,

Whereas, Jack has a copy of his own death certificate, which is on file at Buchenwald, and a picture of it appears in the 2002 edition of his book entitled, *Was God on Vacation?*; and,

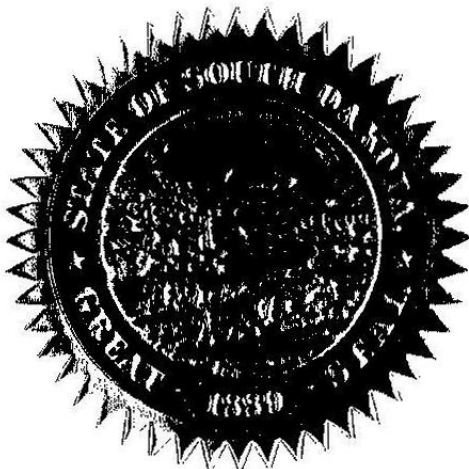
Whereas, It is fitting and proper as governor to recognize the residents of our state that have had a significant impact on the lives of our citizens through the sharing of his story and his commitment to freedom:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2009, as

JACK VAN DER GEEST DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State